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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Budget Day
Ahead

BUDGET Day in Hongkong arrives in three weeks' time, but so far as it is possible to assess prospects, there is little reason to believe that it will produce anything sensational or extraordinary. The Colony's finances have remained outstandingly buoyant during a year of marked commercial recession, and monthly progress figures to date strongly suggest that the Financial Secretary will be able to announce a larger surplus for the year ending March 31 than his estimated \$20 millions—a financial "miracle" which has now become commonplace in Hongkong. Nonetheless, if there does happen to be something in excess of the estimated surplus, congratulations to the keepers of the Colony's money chest will still be in order. Moreover, we trust it will enable the Financial Secretary to repeat the sigh of relief which he expressed a year ago when he announced that no additional taxation was contemplated.

WHEN he introduced last year's Estimates, the Hon. Arthur Clarke warned that possibly a large chunk of his anticipated surplus would disappear if, in the first place, the Secretary of State approved of recommendations for a revision of Government HCL allowances and they became retroactive, and secondly, if any definite agreement and financial commitment were reached concerning the Queen's Road military lands. In the event, neither contingency has eventuated during the current fiscal year. Indeed, the only unforeseen expenditure extraordinary with which the Treasury has been saddled was created by the disastrous Shamshui Po fire, and while this calls for an emergency charge against revenue, it is not of sufficient proportion to upset the surplus accumulated during the year. Thus we imagine the Financial Secretary will have some comforting figures to present for the twelve months just about to end, and that he will be able to show the Colony's finances are healthier today than they have ever been.

PRINCIPAL interest, naturally, will be concentrated on his budgetary proposals for the fiscal year ahead. Undoubtedly he will have to provide for increased expenditure to meet revised salaries, and conceivably negotiations are proceeding over the military lands and may well reach fruition this year, requiring some sort of provision from revenue. Also on the horizon is the question of the new airport—an undertaking which is bound, in due course, to involve the Colony in a considerable amount of expenditure. There is, in fact, some formidable financing to be faced in the future, but we do not believe it necessitates extra taxation—certainly not during the year ahead. We have resources other than current revenue to help finance projects which are intended to benefit posterity as well as the Colony of today, and where possible, these resources should be judiciously utilised rather than thrust new burdens on the taxpayers by means of extra levies, either direct or indirect. The Colony has weathered twelve months of trade recession remarkably well, but there are still no positive signs that better and brighter days are around the corner. This must be borne in mind by Government if it should, by any means, be contemplating new taxation measures.

TRADE AGREEMENT DEBATE:

Testing A
New Rifle

Opposition's Motion Defeated 296-265

LANCASHIRE THREATENED
SAYS HAROLD WILSON

London, Feb. 10.

The House of Commons tonight, by a majority of 31, rejected a Labour Opposition motion seeking to criticise the Government over the recent £400,000,000 Anglo-Japanese trade and payments agreement.

It voted 296 to 265 against the motion, which complained that the Government entered into the pact without first consulting British industries concerned.

The motion also complained that it did not make certain that Japanese exporters would "not revert to previous unfair trade practices."

The Commons then agreed, by 297 to 258, a Government majority of 39, to a motion moved by Conservative back benchers welcoming the Government's action.

The motion acknowledged the "sense of responsibility and impartiality" the Government has shown to the nation and the colonies in taking its decision.

But while recognising that "advantages would accrue to trade of the Empire," the motion urged that any further arrangements should provide such safeguards of the interests of the textile industry as the experience of the coming year might show to be necessary.

Mr Peter Thorneycroft, President of the Board of Trade, said the cure in favour of the agreement was "devastating."

There had been a long period when Japan was running a very substantial surplus but now she had a deficit of £100,000,000.

If the Government had not gone ahead with the agreement, Japan would have bought less from the sterling area and from Britain.

Also it would not have been the best way to encourage Japan to "come into the Western family of nations."

Mr Harold Wilson moving the Opposition motion, appealed to members to avoid giving any expression to "national or racial feelings."

Mr. Wilson said it was inevitable when Anglo-Japanese relations were debated that there was a danger of feelings being raised by thoughts of Japanese behaviour before and during the war.

He looked at this debate, he said, as "a simple question of economic dealing."

The Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Suntchi Matsumoto, was in the diplomatic gallery to listen to the debate. Mr. Wilson said the opposition accepted the fact that Japanese payments were "in a mess." Nobody wanted to balance world trade at a low level of restricted imports and exports.

The Opposition's indictment of the Government, he said, was for its "failure to consult Lancashire, the big cotton district, before the agreement was signed."

Economic Expert

Mr. Reginald Maudling, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Anglo-Japanese agreement was extremely important and was in the general interest of Britain and the sterling area.

The damage which some people feared might happen to British industry would not in fact happen.

Dealing with the background in which the agreement was signed, Mr. Maudling said the Japanese political position in the non-Communist world and the general question of trading policies—including good creditor policies—had to be borne in mind.

But he would rely on the economic argument that the agreement was "a good thing for the sterling area."

He said the sterling payments agreement which has just been renewed was signed originally by the Labour Government. It was a good and sensible agreement on which was based Britain's long-term trade with Japan.

FOUR REASONS

Its principle was that trade should be concluded in sterling. There were four reasons for that. The first was that the more sterling was used the stronger it became. The second was that the alternative to trade in sterling was either to demand dollars from Britain when their position was reversed or to demand yen from Japan. The third was that the Japanese were not allowed to demand dollars from Britain.

The third was that in the long term it was obvious there would be a strong demand for Japanese goods in the sterling area. It was most important that if Japan was to buy from the sterling area she should have the sterling to do it. The fourth reason was that if there had not been this agreement, Japan would probably have concluded separate bilateral agreements with the Dominions. She would then have been able to force upon the market larger quantities of Japanese goods than at the moment.

There was no change whatever in the principles underlying this present agreement.

As a result of the 1951 agreement there was a substantial development of trade between Japan and the sterling area and a substantial increase in the imports of Japanese goods into colonial territories.

There was no question then of Japan being in deficit. The sterling area was in deficit to Japan. Japan began to accumulate large quantities of sterling at one time £130,000,000. She could not ask for dollars and had to hold sterling which amounted to giving Britain credit.

Mr. Maudling said that just as the Japanese were not allowed to demand dollars from Britain when their position was reversed or to demand yen from Japan, so they were not allowed to make any demand on Japan.

Threatening Letter Sent To Eisenhower

Philadelphia, Feb. 10.
Max Zalles, 32-year-old taxicab driver, was arrested today on a charge of threatening the life of President Eisenhower in a letter to the White House.

Zalles was held in \$2,500 bail for further hearing tomorrow after Secret Service agents said he sent a similar threat to President Harry Truman during the Truman administration.

The Secret Service agents said the 20-page, single-spaced, typewritten letter, mailed by Zalles "not long ago," listed in detail his plans for settling all the world's problems, including aggressive action against the Kremlin.

"I have every intention of getting you and everyone involved in one way or another, except those who have met their Master," said the letter. "Apparently I have no recourse but to threaten you. Anyone who could afford to ignore what I have offered in the name of national welfare can go to hell."

The government declined to prosecute Zalles on the charge of threatening Mr. Truman several years ago.—United Press.

WHY HE MURDERED AGED POET

New York, Feb. 10.
Harold Weinberg, 25-year-old former mental patient, confessed today that he killed Maxwell Bodenheim when the jazz-poet objected to Weinberg's love-making with 35-year-old Mrs. Bodenheim.

Weinberg claimed that Mrs. Bodenheim was agreeable to his love-making but turned on him after he killed her husband, so he stabbed her to death.

A scar-faced ex-convict, Weinberg said he met the Bodenheims in Greenwich Village only last Saturday. The droll poet and his attractive third wife Ruth said they had been sleeping in doorways for the past several nights.

Weinberg offered to give them a place to sleep. The three of them went to Weinberg's tiny furnished room, which he rented for \$3 a week. The 60-year-old Bodenheim objected, he said, when he proposed making love to Mrs. Bodenheim.

Weinberg claimed that Mrs. Bodenheim was agreeable to his love-making but turned on him after he killed her husband, so he stabbed her to death.

The colonies and Lancashire were being asked to pay for Japan's excessive imports of Australian wool. Already Lancashire orders for East Africa had come to a full stop.

The Japanese are overjoyed by this agreement, Mr. Wilson said.

It would save Japan dollars—of which she has an abundance—and trade within the Commonwealth was being reduced to bear the brunt of the agreement.

The Japanese had run out of sterling. If they were not to be forced to cut imports from the sterling area very drastically, they had to be able to conduct in the sterling area.

It was impossible to say to the Japanese: "We expect you to maintain your purchases from us while we continue to restrict our purchases from you in order to keep you in a chronic deficit."

Mr. Maudling said one should not underestimate the fact that the Japanese had undertaken to maintain the 1953 level of imports.

"Taking wool and textiles together we would sell more textiles in Japan than the Japanese would sell for consumption in this country."

The Japanese would also not discriminate against sterling oil.

"As a result of the arrangement, envisaged we shall have between this country and Japan not only a large surplus overall but in fact a surplus on visible trade alone on our side," he said.

Mr. Maudling said Britain would admit very small quantities of Japanese goods for consumption in Britain. But these quotas were for one year and no more.

The imports of £3,000,000 worth of Japanese grey cloth for processing and re-export was about half the annual rate of imports in 1951 and 1952. The imports of Japanese grey cloth in 1953 were to be limited to £1,000,000.

Renouncing Citizenship

London, Feb. 10.

Oona O'Neill Chaplin, wife of British-born Charlie Chaplin who has been barred from the United States, tonight announced that she is renouncing her American citizenship to become a British subject.

Mrs. Chaplin, whose play-

wright father, Eugene O'Neill, died recently in the United States, arrived by plane today from Geneva and said she would appear at the American Embassy tomorrow to give up her United States citizenship. The comedian accompanied his wife.

"I am renouncing my United States citizenship," said Mrs. Chaplin. "I have taken out a British passport."

"Mrs. Chaplin was released a short time ago from the United States under provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act, which makes it illegal for a person to renounce his citizenship if he has ever been a citizen of the United States."



Molotov's Proposals Flatly Rejected

Berlin, Feb. 10.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, today bluntly told the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Vyacheslav Molotov, that Britain would never abandon her participation in the North Atlantic Organisation which, he declared, was the foundation stone of British policy.

Flatly rejecting, with the American Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, and the French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, Mr. Molotov's proposals for a 50-year European security treaty and the evacuation of Germany by occupation troops, Mr. Eden called the Soviet proposal a new Monroe Doctrine for Europe.

Mr. Eden told Mr. Molotov that NATO was not an exclusive military instrument and that it permitted the development of cultural and economic ties among its member countries.

The Molotov plan, he said, could not stand as a basis for discussion and he reiterated that in the event of an attack in which the Soviet Union was the victim, Great Britain would observe the obligations imposed on her by the United Nations Charter, which was the only way.

He recalled the fact that the pact of mutual assistance signed between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Soviet Russia in 1939 "strictly stipulated the inviolability of the sovereignty of the signatory states."

Mr. Dulles added: "What quickly happened to these three countries has gone on and on, and has created the division to which Mr. Molotov refers."

The French Foreign Minister also firmly turned down the Soviet proposals but, at the same time, said that the collective security of Europe itself was perfectly acceptable if it did not rule out other arrangements of a defensive character.—France-Press.

Two among a party of British Members of Parliament test out the new Belgian rifle F.N. 9.30, which is to be used by the British Army, in London. The Members of Parliament were invited to do so by the War Office, and tried out the new rifle and watched demonstrations of its firing power.—London Express.

BRITAIN'S NEW PLANE

London, Feb. 10.
Britain's first噴氣式 (jet) plane, an Armstrong Whitworth Meteor, made its maiden flight today.

It was in the air for 28 minutes in the Midlands with Armstrong's chief test pilot, Squadron Leader Eric Franklin, lying in a prone position.

The jet with the pilot lying down in a prone position is a specially-adapted Armstrong Whitworth Meteor night fighter version of the Meteor.

Britain, America and several other countries have been for some years making experiments in prone piloting. As the speed of the aircraft is pushed steadily higher and the era of supersonic flight opens, the greatest problem confronting designers is not purely aerodynamic, but rather how the human body can withstand the forces increasingly imposed upon it.

In tight turns, or steep dives at high speed, the tremendous "G" or gravity forces are sufficient to check the normal circulation of the pilot's blood and cause temporary blackouts.—Routier.

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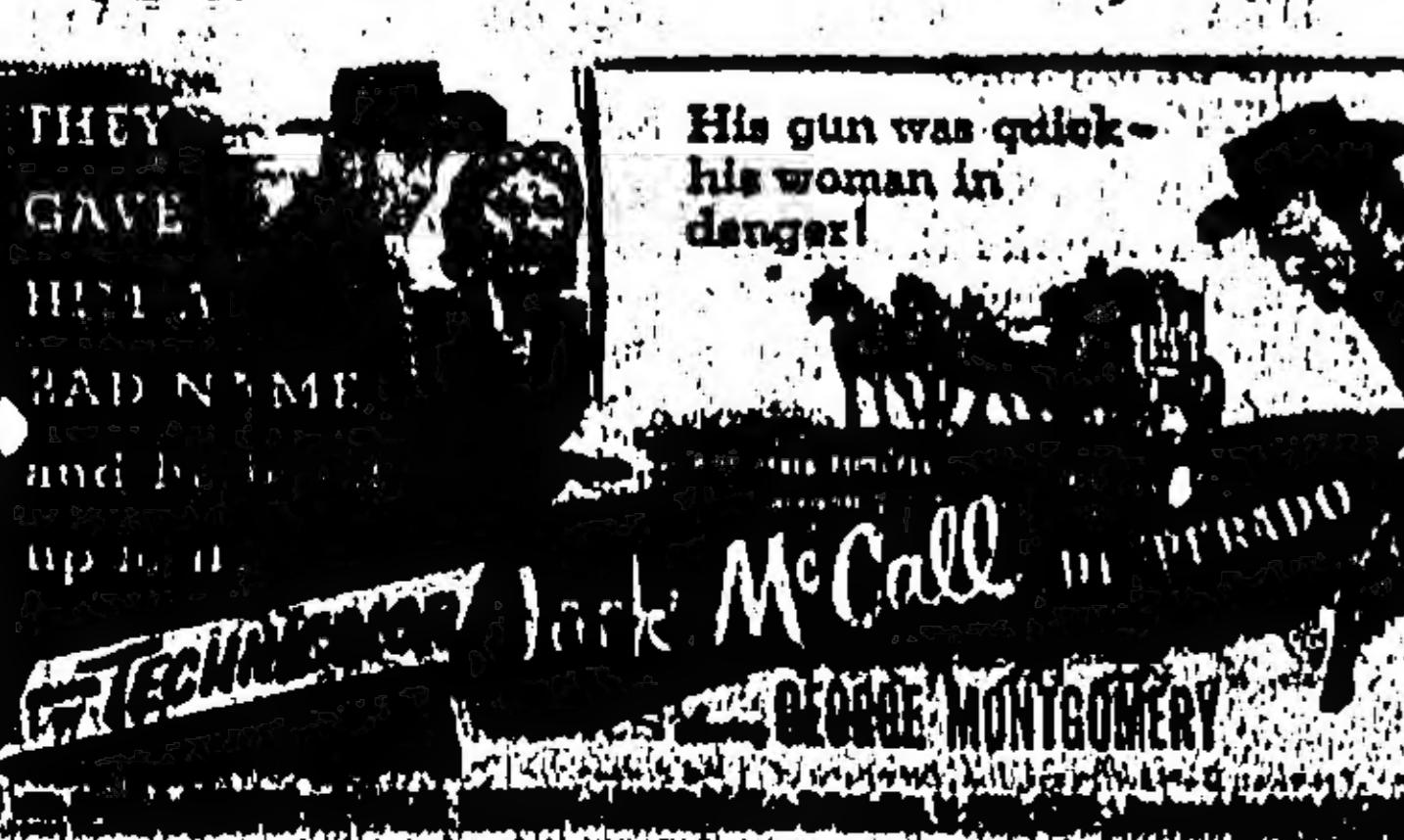
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TO-MORROW AT THE MAJESTIC



MIDDLE-EAST PACT

NEARER

US Favours Regional Security System

London, Feb. 11. Preliminary American contacts which may lead to the establishment of a regional security system stretching from Turkey to Pakistan are nearing completion, it is believed in diplomatic quarters here.

American sympathy with the creation of a local system of defensive alliances of the Balkan pact type has been made clear both to Pakistan and to Turkey, it is thought here.

Discussions on the possibility of granting United States military aid to Pakistan are already advanced.

Although the formal approaches have yet been made,

the possibility of concluding a

pact of friendship and mutual aid between the two countries is believed here to be viewed favourably both in Ankara and Islamabad, and some further, more concrete, moves are regarded as probable in the near future.

Should this pact materialise it is recognised here that it might provide the basis for adherence by other neighbouring states, notably the states which, with Turkey, formed the Spandau Pact system of the inter-war period—Persia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

American backing for such a regional system would, it is thought here, be assured.

NO DIRECT LINK

No direct link with the United States such as had been contemplated in the Middle East Defence Organisation of which Britain, France and the United States, as well as countries of the Middle East, were to be members is likely.

But a regional system of this kind would certainly enjoy as close contact with the military staffs of the Western Powers as that enjoyed by Yugoslavia, from within the Balkan Pact.

Moreover, the form of the Spanish-American bases agreement makes it clear that current American military thinking does not consider the peace-time occupation and development of war-time bases to be essential.

ALTERNATIVE TO MEDO

Officials here do not give a clear reply to questions whether such a system, if it were to materialise, would be an alternative to the present Middle East Defence Organisation in which Turkey and the "Big Three" Western Powers would have enjoyed a special position.

The fact seems to be that an Anglo-Egyptian agreement on the future of the Suez Canal base would give this scheme a fresh start. In the face of Anglo-Egyptian deadlock, however, fresh plans for the security of the area between Europe and Asia are being canvassed.

In these new plans, the leading role would be taken by the indigenous states and not by the Great Powers.

PREOCCUPIED WITH SUEZ

Britain, while being kept informed, is, in fact, still pre-occupied with the question of the Suez Canal base and the chances of securing Egyptian co-operation in its use.

Should a new security system along Russia's southern frontier begin to take shape, it is clear that Turkey would occupy a key role. Besides membership of such a system, Turkey, which bridges Europe and Asia, is also a member of the Balkan Pact system and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Standing both geographically and politically at the junction between these systems, it is clear that Turkey would occupy a key role. Besides membership of such a system, Turkey, which bridges Europe and Asia, is also a member of the Balkan Pact system and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The possibility of establishing a secure defence system between Asia and the Middle East has for some time been explored by the United States.

United States Secretary of State Mr. John Foster Dulles, on his return from his tour of the Middle East and Asia early last summer, commented favourably upon the vitality and independence of what he called the "northern tier" of nations linking Asia and Europe.

At that time, he also recognised the immense difficulties both in the form of Anglo-Egyptian discord and/or Israeli-Arab hatred which stand in the way of the earlier concept of a strictly Middle East defence organisation. — China Mail Special.

The "Brain" Has A Breakdown

A huge electronic "brain," which for months has been working 24 hours a day solving complex mathematical problems for Britain's atomic aeronautical, financial and defence chiefs, has had a "nervous breakdown."

For a fortnight the brain—which fills a big room at Manchester University—has been dumb and helpless. Its memory, a magnetic drum in which 500,000 facts are stored, has failed.

But that doesn't mean that it's forgotten anything. The bearings of the drum are worn out, and to replace them much of the brain must be taken to pieces.

Creaks and groans from the memory drum, which turns at 2,400 revolutions a minute, first drew the attention of its human attendants to its condition.

HAVING A REST

Though piles of work awaited the brain's attention, it was decided to give it a rest while the trouble was investigated.

The brain has helped Sir William Penney's team of atomic experts to push ahead quickly with Britain's atomic work. The De Havilland company has consulted it about supersonic flight. Firms on defence projects, such as Metropolitan Vickers, have also sought its aid. Its charges are £20 per hour.

The machine, costing £100,000, was built by Ferranti, Ltd. Others are being produced and several foreign Governments are interested in them.

FOOTNOTE: Strictly speaking, the "brain" in question is not a brain but another machine. It merely cuts down to the minutest fraction of a second the time a normal person takes to work out mathematical problems.

Film Producer

Files

Divorce Suit

Los Angeles, Feb. 10. The film producer-director Fred Packard today filed suit for divorce from Shaleigh Mary Packard, daughter of the English movie executive, J. Arthur Rank, on grounds of desertion.

Packard indicated an international battle over custody of the couple's two U.S.-born children—Susan, 6, and Fred Arthur II—might be waged when he asked the Court to order that the children be "educated in American schools."

His lawyer, S. S. Hahn, said Packard, an American citizen, was en route to England to see their custody.

Hahn said the family went to England in 1950 when Packard worked for Rank. After the marriage, he said, Packard returned home but his wife has chosen to follow—United Press.

One Of Farouk's Companions



No US Government Farm Surplus Exports For Russia

Washington, Feb. 10.

The United States Government announced today it would allow the sale of surplus farm products to the Soviet bloc provided they were first obtained by American exporters in the open market.

But the new policy, announced by the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Sinclair Weeks, forbids the sale of such products from Government-owned stocks.

His statement said "it has been decided to deny commercial export licensing for the export for cash of United States Government-owned surplus agricultural and vegetable products to Russia or her satellites."

"This does not exclude study of license applications for exporting United States products to the Soviet bloc as acquired by exporters in the open market and not from Government-owned stocks," Reuter.

STRATEGIC BAN

Moscow, Feb. 10. Some of the goods that Russia wants to buy from Britain are on the British strategic list, the leader of the British group of business men said today at the end of their two-week trade visit to Moscow.

Mr. J. B. Scott, said the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. Ivan Kabanov, "spoke frankly about this list" and "expressed the hope for a successful expansion of business in spite of the list."

Eight of the group left Moscow today but 20 others stayed behind for private discussions.

Mr. Scott told Mr. Kabanov at a banquet last night that Britain welcomed a statement given to the group by the Minister was actively concerned with the fate of the former Korean war prisoners who had asked to emigrate to neutral countries and would contribute to all efforts aimed at having them admitted into these countries.

Some 90 prisoners asked to be sent to neutral countries.—France-Press.

Former POW's Want To Emigrate

United Nations, N.Y., Feb. 10.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Dag Hammarskjold, told a press conference here today the United Nations was actively concerned with the fate of the former Korean war prisoners who had asked to emigrate to neutral countries and would contribute to all efforts aimed at having them admitted into these countries.

Some 90 prisoners asked to be sent to neutral countries.—France-Press.

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ments in such a way that we have no reason to disbelieve their denials," he said.

In the book an alleged letter from naval Captain Niebuhr, one of the military attachés at the German Embassy during the war, to General Faupel was reproduced. The spokesman said Captain Niebuhr had denied over writing to General Faupel. Also, the spokesman said Prince Schaumburg-Lippe insisted that since 1945 he had not been in Britain where, according to Tecla do Uva Tradicion, he made statements on the subject.

The spokesman said the German Foreign Office had obtained statements from all of the Third Reich German Embassy officials quoted in the book.

"In each case, these men have denied the validity of the docu-

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GIBRALTAR HAS BEEN BRITISH LONGER THAN IT WAS EVER SPANISH

By Peter Lovegrove

GIBRALTAR, that rocky "sentry-box" guarding the narrow sea-way between Europe and Africa where the Mediterranean and the Atlantic meet, which Her Majesty the Queen is to visit on May 10, will complete its 250th year under the British Crown on July 24.

It has recently been the target for threats by General Franco and hysterical demonstrations of nationalism by Spanish youths in Madrid and other cities, but in actual fact this naval base of vital strategic importance has been British territory longer than it ever was Spanish.

Known to the Greeks as Kalpe, it was one of the Pillars of Hercules of antiquity, and the Phoenicians were the first to found a

Moors were back in possession 24 years later, and it was not until the end of the fifteenth century that Spain regained control.

In 1704 it fell once more, this time to the combined British and Dutch forces under Admiral Sir George Rooke after a three-day siege. The War of the Spanish Succession was then in progress, with Britain supporting the claim of the Archduke Charles of Austria to the throne of Spain, and the original aim of Rooke's expedition had been to seize Barcelona. When this was found to be loyal to the Archduke's cause, Rooke struck at Gibraltar instead and, appreciating its strategic value, promptly hoisted the

siege in 1726, again made a "final" renunciation of their claims in 1729, and fifty years later launched, with the help of the French, their most ambitious effort to reduce the fortress.

This was Gibraltar's greatest siege, the small British garrison holding out indomitably against vastly superior forces for three years and seven months. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief was the dogged and experienced 70-year-old General Elliott, and he only had 5,500 men under his command. There were four British Infantry regiments—the 12th of Foot (the Suffolks), the 39th (the 1st Dorsets), the 50th (2nd Essex) and the 58th (2nd Northants), all of whom wear the castle of Gibraltar on their cap badges to commemorate their gallantry and endurance—the Manchester V. Lancers, three Hanoverian regiments, a body of Marines and 428 Guards.

In World War One, when Spain remained neutral—there are now more than 10 miles of subterranean corridors—and manpower were strengthened against a possible attack, but Franco, though co-operating with the Axis Powers on the Russian front, prudently refrained from committing himself against the Allies.

Most Loyal

Gibraltar today has a civil population of some 23,000, of mixed Mediterranean and Spanish origin who count among Queen Elizabeth's most loyal subjects. Some 12,000 Spanish workmen cross the neutral zone every day to work for the British authorities.

Under a new Constitution promulgated in 1949, the Governor is assisted by a Legislative Council and an Executive Council. The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, which has three ex-officio members, five elected by the popular vote of the Rock's inhabitants, and two nominated members (of whom both may, and one must be unofficial).

A free port, with an extensive shipping trade and tourist traffic, it derives most of its revenue from port dues, and duties on a variety of commodities. It has virtually no home production, and depends on Spain for its fresh food and on rain storage for drinking water.

There have been two previous Royal visits—by King Edward VII in 1903 and King George V in 1912. George VI had also planned a visit for 1951, but was prevented by illness.

No Intention

Royal Standard of Queen Anne. The Navy was represented by a 60-gun ship, three frigates and one sloop of war, and at the outset there were less than five months' supplies of basic foods. Later reinforcements included the 71st of Foot (Highland Light Infantry), the 97th (2nd Royal West Kent) and a roared midshipman who was later to become William IV.

The Franco-Iberian investing forces tried a variety of tactics: long-range blockade and hard-pressed siege; continuous bombardments by land and powerful seaborne attacks. Their most determined venture was pressed by no less than 40,000 troops, 200 guns, 47 ships of the line, a multitude of small vessels and landing craft made of hinged planks, and ten formidable but unwieldy "floating batteries" each carrying from 10 to 26 guns with crews of 250 to 700 men.

The garrison suffered severely and great material damage was caused, but the fortress guns

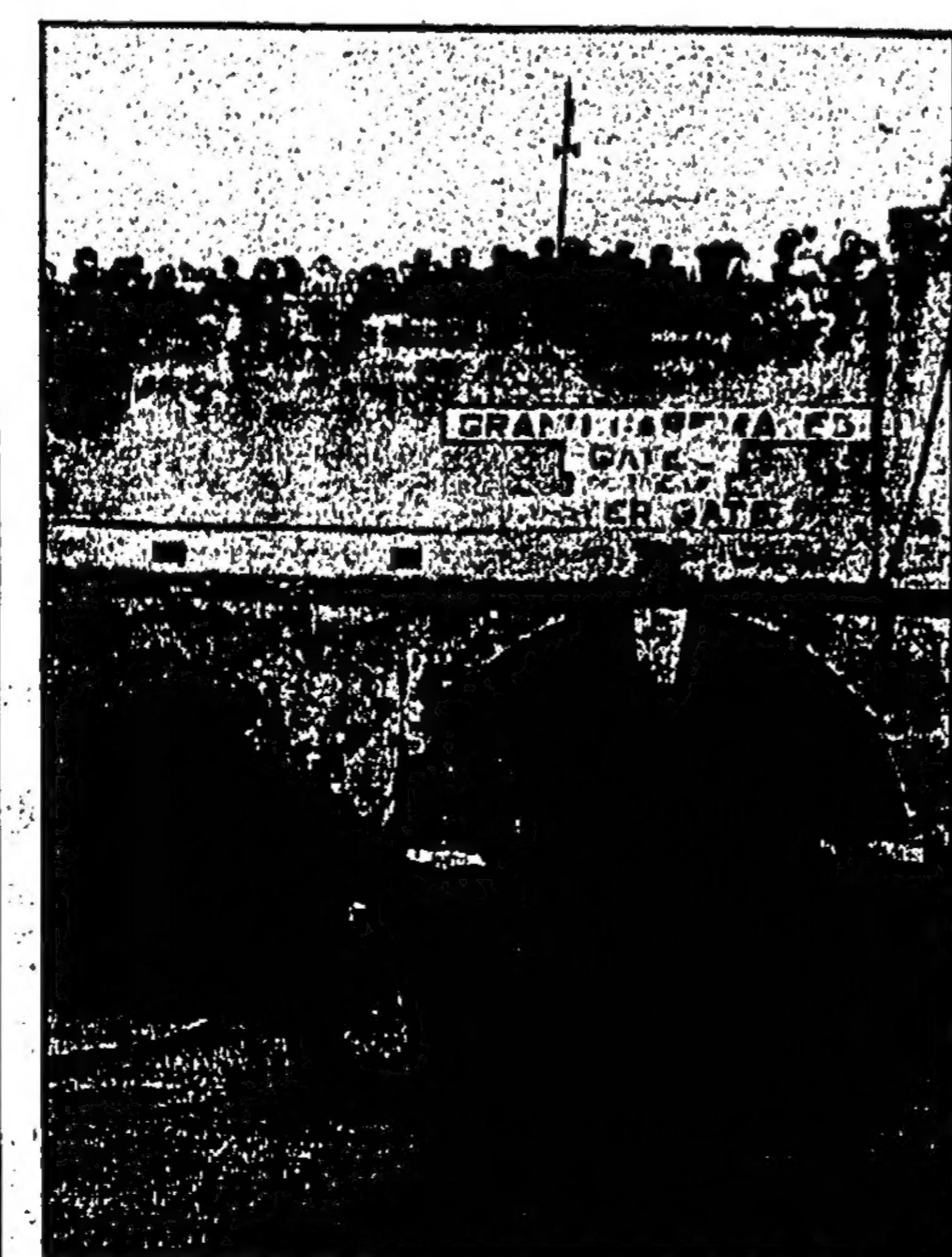
settlement there. It was an important harbour under the Carthaginians; it became the first Roman colony in the whole Iberian peninsula; and it was occupied by the Goths after the fall of the Roman Empire. In the eighth century the Berbers and the Arabs seized it when they invaded Spain; they called the rock Gebel el Tarik (Mount Tarik) after the name of their leader, and this eventually got deformed into Gibraltar.

The Spaniards first came into the picture in 1309 when Ferdinand II of Castile captured the Moorish castle-fortress, but the

Spanish did not come into the picture in 1309 when Ferdinand II of Castile captured the Moorish castle-fortress, but the

Catholic King does hereby for himself, his heirs and successors yield to the Crown of Great Britain the full and entire property of the Town and Castle of Gibraltar, together with the Fort, fortifications and forts belonging thereto. And he gives up the said property to be held and enjoyed absolutely with all manner of right for ever without any exception or impediment whatsoever...."

It was not long before the Spaniards dishonoured their signature. They made an attack on the Rock in 1720, undertook a fruitless



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Coronation Glory	10.50
King George VI	10.50
It's Fun Finding Out — 2nd series (Bernard Wicksteed)	5.00
Rupert Adventures (Annual)	4.00
More Adventures of Rupert (Annual)	5.00
Rupert (Magazines)	1.00
No Hiding Place (Behind Scotland Yard)	10.00
Common Marine Food-Fishes of Hongkong (second enlarged edition)	24.00
Weights & Measurements	15.00
Chinese Goods & Customs (V. R. Burkhardt)	18.00
4th Impression now ready	
Giles Annual	
Limited stock now available	5.00

On Sale At

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.

KOWLOON

The Port Serjeant marching away after "locking" the Water Gate of the fortress at Gibraltar — part of the weekly ceremony of the Key. The custom dates back to the days of the Great Siege of 1779-1783 and was revived in 1953.



"We must invite Senor Bevan to Gibraltar without delay"
London Express Service

Pedigree For 18 Pence

By J. W. Taylor

THEY are expecting another busy year at Somerset House, dealing with the hundreds of enquiries, some by post, others personally, from Americans anxious to trace their British ancestry.

Remarkable research results are often achieved by the Somerset House experts, sometimes on the flimsiest of clues, although there are times when defeat seems imminent from the start.

Typical is the request from an American called Smith who seeks to establish the genealogical details of a grandfather born "somewhere in the Midlands, England, round about 1883." A common name calls for essential data as to the precise date and place of birth; less is needed for a rarer name.

Cost of the search can be modest or very costly, according to the work involved. A sifting of records covering a period of five years at Somerset House costs 1s. 6d. if made in person, and 3s. 6d. if conducted through the post, in which case the applicant must take up a certified copy of an entry at an additional charge of 3s. 6d. An extensive search in person costs 30s. for six consecutive hours.

COLLEGE OF ARMS

The Society of Genealogists, a non-profit making concern, is also available for additional help at appropriate fees. The College of Arms, too, will help at charges that can be high, for the fees expected for private genealogists are appropriate to the high professional skill of the researchers engaged. A long and protracted search, much of it perhaps involving much wasted time on fruitless enquiries, can mean the expenditure of hundreds, perhaps thousands of pounds, before a pedigree can finally be established. The College concerns itself only with families who boast a crest or coat of arms.

The experts do not agree that snobbery has made Americans so ancestor-conscious; they say it comes of a very natural pride in one's origin. Somerset House have the impression, however, that social-climbing may have something to do with it, but admit that with many there are very practical reasons for the quest.

Some seek to establish hereditary right to an estate. There are those who are Latter Day Saints devotees wishing to baptise their ancestors into their faith by proxy. Somerset House records each month regularly swell the posthumous roll of this sect by about 20 a month. Then there are Americans who can trace their descent to the Mayflower, and have through these researches been able to go back in their ancestry to the Middle Ages in England.

CHURCH RECORDS

Somerset House records in the Strand, London, are chiefly confined to births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales since 1837; Scottish and Irish records are filed in Edinburgh and Dublin. They also include records kept by churches prior to 1837, some of them going back to the middle of the 16th century; census returns since 1801, and military records for about two centuries.

Clues sometimes take the searchers to the Somerset House Probate Registry; to the diocesan repositories all over the country; to medieval records and land deeds housed at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, finally to parish churches throughout the country containing details of births, marriages and deaths from 1535, when registration was introduced by law, to 1837.

The Society of Genealogists not only have an index of parish registers covering the whole country, but other research aids such as the passenger lists of early emigrant ships.

POCKET CARTOON

by OSBERT LANCASTER



★ DON IDDON'S DIARY ★ MORE PUSH-BUTTON FOR MRS. AMERICA

BIG business is obviously out to save the New World for prosperity by electronics, aeronautics, hydromatics, and several billion dollars of expenditure.

Anyway, it is plain that American industry is prepared to bend. I don't know whether you see any of the American magazines, but if you do you will notice that they are carrying more advertising than ever before in their history. Newspapers are printing a record volume of advertising too.

East side, West side, all around the town there are exhibitions dominated by the push-button. The latest in motor-cars, motor-boats, kitchens, and household equipment are on display near the sidewalks of New York.

I could not help thinking as I looked at the "Kitchen of tomorrow brought to you today" in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel: "But can you boil an egg?"

Ovens, grills, ranges appeared, disappeared, slid sideways, backwards and forwards at the pressure of a lever. There was not the slightest resemblance between the old kitchen stove and the gleaming white laboratory on show before the gaping women.

Everything, it appears, is to be automatic, and maybe atomic, in the mechanical world of the future. Perhaps the housewife is becoming superfluous.

In the hope that the cough will not become influenza or pneumonia, the motor-car magnates are raiding their treasure chests to sell their products.

I find it strange that so many businessmen, so ready to pour thousands of millions into "souped-up" selling, are so wary about reducing tariffs. Henry Ford is an exception, but most big executives shy away from drastic tariff reduction.

The report of the President's commission on trade policy has been received "frigidly" here. There's hardly a chance that American tariffs will be slashed or that the "Buy American" programme will be waived. He says: "No depression is in my vision."

Young Henry Ford, more cautious, is slightly uneasy about rising unemployment, but he also is spending several hundred millions on new models and selling them to the public.

There is something rather ironical about the American customer's worry about a slump. One of the strongest sights of 1954 is a prosperous citizen having his super car equipped with amplifiers so that his forecast of a depression can carry to all his passengers.

Yet most of Congress, and particularly the Republican members, are standing fast against tariff reform. The best we can hope for is another modest expansion of the reciprocal trade programme.

Special interests here still have vast influence. There are only 20,000 people in agriculture out of a population of 160,000, yet one whisper from the farmers has Washington turning handspins.

The farmer has been pampered, spoiled, supported, and subsidized for years. His high

prices are propped by the Government, which means the taxpayer.

The result is that the Government has a glut of food on its hands—\$10,000,000,000 of butter stored away in millions of

tonnes.

Seasler, who returns to London today, has been feted from here to Hollywood.

Scotland's Mary Garden says:

"Marriage is all right for some opera singers, but you have a great career why don't you want a man trailing you?"

The British musical, The Boy Friend, is awaited here. So is

the author-composer Sandy

Wilson.



"How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you never look any older?"

• BY • THE • WAY •

by Beachcomber

ENCOURAGED by the favourable reception (seven to one) of his proposal letters in an evening paper) accorded to his Triangle Traffic Plan, Charlie Suet has supplemented it with a plan for co-ordinating and scheduling the thirty-four lighting systems at present in use on the streets of London.

Briefly, his idea is to floodlight the lights at zebra crossings in such a way that they would be reflected by an arrangement of gigantic mirrors placed above and below the fluorescent approach-lights.

Colours used in his scheme would be green, blue, red, amber and yellow, each of the latter only at each

junction. Each end of what?

Myself. The whole thing.

Twenty Years of Upstage

Orchestra and stage were out of touch at the beginning.

(Music critic)

I RECALL an occasion when Rodriguez was to sing Mass in "Paul." The stage door was open for him, and the orchestra were given the music for "Carmen." Rodriguez went on with "Paul" as though nothing had happened. The orchestra and the scene-shifters fell about the stage, helpless with laughter.

Sheik Nokhsh el

Foulenough

RODRIGUEZ, like many other people, is cautious about Foulenough's captaincy. But he puts her on with playful replies. He says, "I was captain of a crew sent to meet the 'Salvation Army' delectable troupe," or, more seriously, commanded a gunboat on the Tigris. Asked if he won any medals, he

Tomorrow!
FOTTE!!!

DUMB-BELLS

IT MUST BE VERY BAD FOR THE HEALTH TO BE A GREAT COMPOSER—BUT IT'S ALL THE GREAT COMPOSERS ARE DEAD!



YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

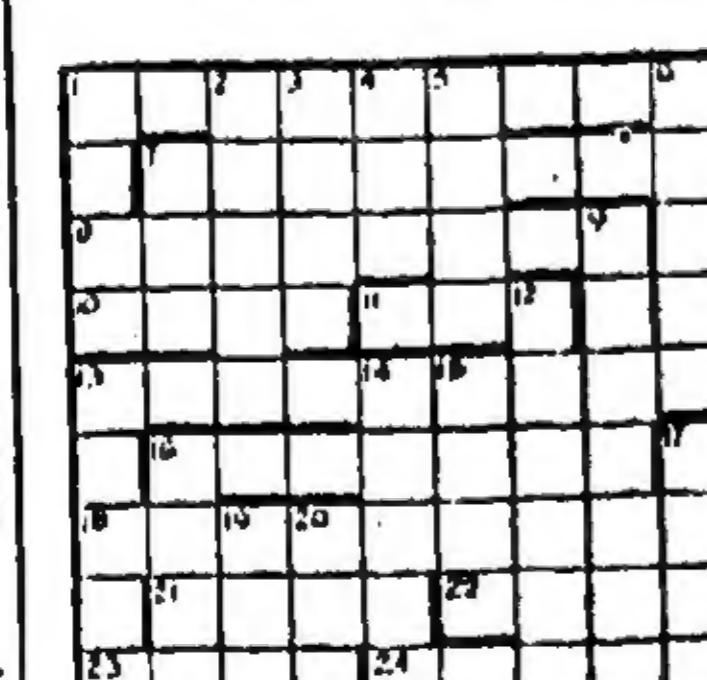
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

BUHN today, you have a kindly and likable personality. You win friends wherever you go and some people make the mistake of thinking you are a bit of a "softy." In the next few weeks, while you are unusually available at all times, you will be quite stern and exert a will of iron if you are being asked to do any more than you know you want. You will get it just when you can—but you know just when it is the proper time to do so.

You are a little too critical of others and are more apt to see another's mistake rather than admit that you will not always have a deep interest in whatever you are doing or your enthusiasm will wane when your capacity for hard work decreases. You are the one who usually keeps a level head on your shoulders during a crisis, but, surprisingly enough, will lose your head over some minor matter that really is quite unimportant.

You have many moods. At sometimes you are on top of the world and, at others, you are inclined to become depressed beyond what that facts warrant. Strive for emotional balance at all times. It is possible that an early marriage will harmonize your increasing tensions and your increasing interest will act as a steady influence without your even being conscious of it.

CROSSWORD



1. The second, strangely, never grown on mine. (4)

2. Herbs grow Soot? (7)

3. They meant now. (8)

4. You get out of this river. (8)

5. Last of the last group. (9)

6. Mr. Miltahipman's art? (9)

7. Unhappy. (7)

8. I was interested in cards. (9)

9. Shooter without her. (6)

10. Play the part. (4)

11. The first swan princess? (4)

12. Plain old? (8)

13. The sun, without No. 5, appears. (8)

14. Girl called from Madam. (8)

15. Cost of living seems to be providing. (6)

16. Biscay for instance. (8)

17. Man who works this must be good. (10)

18. This is of great virtue. (8)

19. Many tulips are of this variety now. (8)

20. This seems white with age. (4)

21. Bright this, and stand back. (4)

22. Suite for a chamber. (8)

23. Snake for the lady's neck. (8)

24. GOMPHILUMA

25. CHILOPAGUS

26. CANTERBURY

27. FLORIDOPHILUM

28. LARINOPHILUM

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WEALTH OF NEW TALENT IN SCHOOLBOYS' BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

By "ARGONAUT"

A wealth of new talent and an improved standard of badminton were the gratifying features of the opening games of the 1954 Colony Schoolboys' and Schoolgirls' Open Championships at the Queen's College courts yesterday.

The most impressive display was by Chu Sui-wah of Pui Chung School. Competing in the junior class, Chu accounted for DBS's Sinn Dung-shun by 15-0 and 18-17 and during the two-set game showed himself to be a good miniature of shuttle king Wong Peng-soon in build, footwork, strokes and court mannerisms.

Under proper coaching, the Pui Chung player is a safe bet not only to garner the Colony title in five or six years' time but also to make himself conspicuous in international badminton. He looks the most promising player Hong Kong has ever had.

The Midget class event, introduced for the first time and limited to students of under 15 years of age and five feet in height, was given an excellent start.

The fighting spirit of such "midgets" as Sinn Dung-shun and the two Wong brothers, Philip and Martin, as they gritted their teeth and fought undauntedly against opponents who were more than a foot taller deserves special mention.

One of them, however, Wong Kai-lam of Clementi Middle School, standing barely two racket lengths in height, showed that size was not all in the game. Playing like a seasoned veteran, Wong kept his much bigger schoolmate, Lee Hoo-kuen, on the run throughout the two sets with beautifully executed drops, lobs and drives to win comfortably by 15-7 and 15-3.

In the two most closely-contested games of the evening

NOTICE

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Draft Programmes and Entry Forms for the 8th Race Meeting 1953/54 to be held on Saturday 27th February and Saturday 6th March, 1954, (weather permitting), may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Alexandra House; the Club House, Happy Valley; and the Stables, Shan Kwong Road.

Entries close at 12 o'clock NOON on Tuesday 16th February, 1954.

By Order of the Stewards, H. MISA, Secretary.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SEVENTH RACE MEETING

Saturday, 13th February 1954.

(To be held under the Rules of the Hong Kong Jockey Club)

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF 8 RACES

The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the First Race run at 2.00 p.m.

The Secretary's office at Alexandra House will close at 11.45 a.m.

MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

NO PERSON WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED.

All persons MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the meeting.

Admission Badges at \$10.00 each are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him.

Tickets will be obtainable at the Club House if ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 72811).

NO CHILDREN will be admitted to the Club's premises during the Meeting. For this purpose a Child is a person under the age of seventeen years, Western standard.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission will be \$3.00 each payable at the Gate.

Any person leaving the Enclosure will be required to pay the requisite fee of \$3.00 in order to gain re-admission.

MEALS & REFRESHMENTS will be obtainable in the RESTAURANT.

SERVANTS

Servants must remain in their employer's boxes except for passing through on their duties. They may no account use the Betting Booths in the Members' Betting Hall.

CASH SWEEPS

The cost of a Through Ticket is \$10.00 Through Tickets reserved for this meeting but not paid for by 10 a.m. on Friday, 12th February, will be sold and the reservation cancelled for future meetings.

Cash Sweep Tickets on the last race of the Meeting at \$2.00 each may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Offices at Queen's Building, (Chater Road), 5, Aguilar Street and 332 Nathan Road, during normal office hours and until 11 a.m. on the race day.

TOTALISATOR

Bookmakers, Tic Tac men, etc. will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

By Order of the Stewards,

H. MISA,
Secretary.

NEW TERRITORIES

FANLING UN LONG & SHEUNG SHUI DISTRICTS.

THE CHINA MAIL

is now obtainable

from the

SHEUNG SHUI STATION STALL, SHUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

Orders Accepted.
Deliveries Undertaken.



SPECTACULAR LEAP

Boniperti, the Italian centre-forward, makes a spectacular leap to boot the ball during the Italy v. Egypt match in Milan, which Italy won by 5 goals to 1. On the left is Helmi of Egypt.—Express Photo.

West Indies In A Commanding Position In Second Test

Bridgetown, Feb. 10.

The West Indies were in a commanding position at the close of play today in the second Test match against England, having amassed a lead of 474 runs with nine wickets in hand.

The score at the close was: West Indies, 1st Innings, 383; England, 1st Innings, 181; West Indies, 2nd Innings, 272 for one.

Holt was still unbeaten with 106 when stumps were drawn. His total includes one six and 27 fours. He has batted 280 minutes so far. He reached his first Test century in 172 minutes.

The second wicket stand between Holt and Worrell has so far realised 221 runs in 210 minutes, only seven short of the record. West Indies' second-wicket partnership against Eng-

land's score was 74 not out. The new ball was available after tea at 170, but Hutton persisted with slow bowlers for 40 more minutes. He took it at 221 after Holt had scored 13 of one Compton over.

Holt and Worrell continued battling in the manner of top-class batsmen at not practice against second-rate bowlers. West Indies did not enforce the follow-on when they dismissed England for 181 soon after the start of the fourth day's play today.

The England innings ended without addition to the overnight score. The remaining batsmen, Lockett and Statham, prodded defensively for three overs, then Statham swung wildly in Valentine's next over and skied a catch to cover.

After Stollmeyer was run out for the second time in the match—Worrell and Holt remained unbeaten until close.

THE SCOREBOARD
West Indies, 2nd Innings

Holt, not out	106
Stollmeyer, run out	28
Worrell, not out	74
Extras	4
Total (for one wkt.)	272

The first wicket fell at 51.

Bowling So Far.

O M R W	
Statham	12 0 41 0
Bailey	12 1 48 0

MEANWHILE

Len Braund, the old Surrey, Somerset and England all round cricketer and that was quite an effort on Len's part—for he has no legs. Woodward was a fine cricketer too, and it is over a quarter of a century now since I saw him knock up a century for Middlesex Wanderers.

His 60 "caps" for England—26 full ones and 40 amateurs—is a record, and, for an amateur, so

is his five full "caps" against Scotland.

Woodward was a frail man who relied upon skill at centre-forward to beat brawn. A master dribbler and a powerful shot. He was wounded in World War I, and, although he lived to be 74, his health for the past ten years had been very poor. Most of that time he has spent in a London hospital, and, his finances not being of the best, he received generous support from his two old clubs and the Football Association.

It was only two weeks ago that he said: "I wish some of my old footballing cronies would come along and visit me." That was a cry from the heart of a lonely old man who contributed so much skill and pleasure to the game of soccer.

One of his last visitors was Len Braund, the old Surrey, Somerset and England all round cricketer and that was quite an effort on Len's part—for he has no legs. Woodward was a fine cricketer too, and it is over a quarter of a century now since I saw him knock up a century for Middlesex Wanderers.

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Woodward was a frail man

Stroke Is Oxford's Chief Problem

As yet there is no ready-made stroke at either university for this year's Centenary Boat Race, but, as was the case in 1953, one will no doubt be discovered both at Oxford and Cambridge before April 3 (writes Hilton Cleaver).

The Oxford A and B crews, who are still being kept in training, were stroked by Australians J. McLeod and E.B. Vine respectively on their last outing.

There are four Australian candidates for Blues in this historic year and all of them are at Oxford. E. O. G. Palm was Australia's Olympic seven in 1952, and is quite the best available.

He looks like being a great influence upon the boat as was Louis McCagg, of USA, in the Cambridge crew last year. He has taken Quicke's old seat at 7, which leaves the latter, who is president, to row 4.

The fourth Australian, J.A. Gobbo, was spare man last year and is now three in a crew, so there seems quite a chance of all four racing against Cambridge. This would make history in itself.

I watched Oxford cover 14 miles of the Wallingford Reach at a firm paddle—six and a half miles of it without an easing.

RAF EIGHT

It was, of course, bitterly cold, and the only people on the launch were Christopher Davidge, as coach, Richard Burnell, Olympic gold medal winner of 1948, and myself.

The outing was specially interesting because the Oxford Probables and Probables had the company of the RAF eight from Benson. It included five of last year's winning Thames Cup crew—all available until the Head of the River race.

Gavin Sorrell, stroke of our Olympic four at Helsinki, 1948, and the only people on a course, but will be back in mid-February.

One of the most effective men in the Oxford A crew is J. M. Wilson, the only Old Blue available apart from Quicke and W. R. Marsh thecox.

Among the new men, I liked the latest member of the Radfords, family from Radford, R. D. T., the son of David.

He is rowing No. 6 in A crew. Another Radford, J. G. United Press.

Miami-Nassau Yacht Race

Nassau, Bahamas, Feb. 10. The green-hulled Hoot Mon, a 39-foot speedster, owned jointly by three Minnies, captured the 16th annual Miami to Nassau race on corrected time today, although it finished 18th among the 25 yachts entered.

Hoot Mon, owned by Woody Pirie, Charlie Ulmer and Worth Brown, used its eight-hour handicap to wind up with a corrected time of 10 hours 33 minutes.

Second place went to Marle Ainslie, a yawl owned by Gabriel Giannini of Oyster Bay, New York, with a corrected time of 10 hours 58 minutes.

Hilaria, a 55-foot yawl owned by Hugh Scaddelee of Grand Rapids, Michigan, earned a corrected time of 20 hours 12 minutes to take third place.

—United Press.

SOCER ON ICE INSIDE

(Edited by Marshall Fallowe)

When Norman Low, the Norwich manager, went to watch Leicester's Cup reply with Stoke he took with him Billy Furness, who has been appointed first team coach and trainer.

Furness, capped for England as an inside forward while playing for Leeds, coached Peter Gordon and Ron Hansell in the reserves until they won their first team places. Now he has been 'promoted' with them.

Most welcome traveller in Norwich is centre half Reg Foulkes, who represents a chocolate and toffee manufacturing company.

In general, there is a lack of weight about the Oxford Probables, but it is certainly wise to use the Wallingford Reach which provides the longest stretch of water between looks to be found on the Upper Thames and is nearer to Oxford than Henley.

(London Express Service)

Socer certainly provides the biggest problem. McLeod has rhythm but not much attack, and his leg work is uneven.

He looks like being a great influence upon the boat as was Louis McCagg, of USA, in the Cambridge crew last year. He has taken Quicke's old seat at 7, which leaves the latter, who is president, to row 4.

The fourth Australian, J.A. Gobbo, was spare man last year and is now three in a crew, so there seems quite a chance of all four racing against Cambridge. This would make history in itself.

I watched Oxford cover 14 miles of the Wallingford Reach at a firm paddle—six and a half miles of it without an easing.

(London Express Service)

Palace thinks so much of Branan that they would be pleased to sign him professionally and let him continue in his job as a car salesman.

Says Foulkes: "I have many calls to catch up with after a whole week away training at Brighton. It is taking quite a time—I have to tell the story of how we beat Arsenal wherever I go."

If Norwich (Division 111 South) beat Leicester in the next round Foulkes will need an assistant.

• • •

Next top-class amateur to join the professional ranks could be Lou Branan, the Walthamstow centre-half. He says he has no idea of doing this at the moment, but the fact remains that he is "flirting" with Crystal Palace.

I arrived just after the start of a mid-week League game between Palace and Millwall at Selhurst Park on a Wednesday, and remarked to Palace Chairman Arthur Watt that their centre-half impressed me.

"He ought to," went Mr. Foulkes, "He is Branan, the Walthamstow Avenue centre-half."

This grade of football was just too easy for the 0ft. 2in. tall Branan and I have no hesitation in suggesting he could win a place in Palace's first team.

At the moment Branan intends to let the Avenue have first claim on his services. But towards the end of the season, when Palace have some mid-week games, he is likely to be introduced to League football.

—United Press.

spirit, his level-headedness. Hence the dispensation.

Ask him which team he wants to play for and he'll tell you "any team... so long as I'm not twelfth man."

Merton Vernon Stokes and Duggie grins shuffles his feet and says: "Aw, Mr. Stokes is always kidding me..."

NOVELTY

One of the training novelties introduced by Derby County at the Baseball ground is relay racing with a ball.

Players are split into two teams. Each man in turn dribbles half way round the track and back. First team to complete the trip wins.

West Bromwich Albion, Division 1 leaders, are leaving nothing to chance in their bid for the League and Cup double.

Take the tie with Rotherham. Why did Albion make ball control look so easy on the bone-hard ground?

Here's the secret... for weeks the West Bromwich boys had been practising with a rubber ball on a concrete pitch. Now their foresight is being rewarded.

• • •

Southend United still hope to persuade Reading to part with centre-forward Ron Blackman. Other clubs have similar ideas.

Reading's answer is to appoint Blackman captain. They want him to stay at Elm Park.

Ron accepted the appointment with a grin and added: "I'm happy here and shall stay as long as you want me."

Duggie's whole-hearted club

(London Express Service)

WORRYING WORRELL, THE MAGNIFICENT MENACE

By GEORGE WHITING

London. One down—and Frank Worrell in! That is the none too cosy-rosy state of affairs in the far West Indies as our cricketers play Test Match No. 2 at Barbados. The prospect, frankly, will warm no frozen bones back here at home.

Everton Weekes may clout our discredited pace attack with the explosiveness of a blunderbuss. Ramadhin and Valentine may continue to torment crease-bound batsmen. But the smooth acquisition of immaculate runs by Frank MacGlynn Worrell could well prove the greatest menace of them all—as it was in the West Indies in 1948, and in England two years later.

Are we not right in calling him a magnificent menace? No mere collector of easy runs from tired bowlers, Worrell. That 181 not out against us in 1948, for instance, was punched out when three West Indies wickets had vanished into the Caribbean air for 48 runs.

He has scored a century against each of Australia, New Zealand and India; he has brought dignity to the dash of Lancashire League games for Radcliffe; and he has added freely to the fortunes of Commonwealth cricketers in India.

But England, always England, has been the main target; neither plomme nor sunstroke nor a broken finger has been able to deflect this prolific stylist from our defeat.

And he does it all for money! If ever Test Match cricketers form a trade union, you may bet your white boots that Frankie Worrell will be pocketing for higher wages.

(London Express Service)

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE ORDERS

Order by Mr. Fung Fung-fan, O.S.I.

Commissioner of St. John Ambulance Brigade, Hong-kong District, Order No. 6/54 dated February 11, 1954.

AMBULANCE DUTIES, HONG-KONG.—14.2.54.—20.2.54. Kennedy Town Amb. Div. 21.2.54.—21.2.54. Sheung Shui Amb. Div. 22.2.54.—22.2.54. Ma On Shan Amb. Div. 23.2.54.—23.2.54. Wong Tai Sin Amb. Div. 24.2.54.—24.2.54. Head-quarters.

FOOTBALL DUTIES, HONG-KONG.—25.2.54.—25.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 26.2.54.—26.2.54. Club Ground: Central Amb. Div. 27.2.54.—27.2.54. Course: Chung Sing Amb. Div.

HEADQUARTERS.—28.2.54.—28.2.54. Head-quarters.

29.2.54.—29.2.54. Boundary Street Ground: 29.2.54.—29.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 30.2.54.—30.2.54. Boundary Street: 30.2.54.—30.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 31.2.54.—31.2.54. Waterco.

32.2.54.—32.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 33.2.54.—33.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 34.2.54.—34.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 35.2.54.—35.2.54. Boundary Street: 35.2.54.—35.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 36.2.54.—36.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 12.2.54.—12.2.54. Waterco. 37.2.54.—37.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 38.2.54.—38.2.54. K.Y.M.C.A. Amb. Div. 39.2.54.—39.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 40.2.54.—40.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 41.2.54.—41.2.54. Boundary Street: 41.2.54.—41.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 42.2.54.—42.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 12.2.54.—12.2.54. Waterco. 43.2.54.—43.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 44.2.54.—44.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 45.2.54.—45.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 46.2.54.—46.2.54. Boundary Street: 46.2.54.—46.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 47.2.54.—47.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 48.2.54.—48.2.54. Waterco. 49.2.54.—49.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 50.2.54.—50.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 51.2.54.—51.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 52.2.54.—52.2.54. Boundary Street: 52.2.54.—52.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 53.2.54.—53.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 54.2.54.—54.2.54. Waterco. 55.2.54.—55.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 56.2.54.—56.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 57.2.54.—57.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 58.2.54.—58.2.54. Boundary Street: 58.2.54.—58.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 59.2.54.—59.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 60.2.54.—60.2.54. Waterco. 61.2.54.—61.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 62.2.54.—62.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 63.2.54.—63.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 64.2.54.—64.2.54. Boundary Street: 64.2.54.—64.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 65.2.54.—65.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 66.2.54.—66.2.54. Waterco. 67.2.54.—67.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 68.2.54.—68.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 69.2.54.—69.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 70.2.54.—70.2.54. Boundary Street: 70.2.54.—70.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 71.2.54.—71.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 72.2.54.—72.2.54. Waterco. 73.2.54.—73.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 74.2.54.—74.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 75.2.54.—75.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 76.2.54.—76.2.54. Boundary Street: 76.2.54.—76.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 77.2.54.—77.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 78.2.54.—78.2.54. Waterco. 79.2.54.—79.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 80.2.54.—80.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 81.2.54.—81.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 82.2.54.—82.2.54. Boundary Street: 82.2.54.—82.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 83.2.54.—83.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 84.2.54.—84.2.54. Waterco. 85.2.54.—85.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 86.2.54.—86.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 87.2.54.—87.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 88.2.54.—88.2.54. Boundary Street: 88.2.54.—88.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 89.2.54.—89.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 90.2.54.—90.2.54. Waterco. 91.2.54.—91.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 92.2.54.—92.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 93.2.54.—93.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 94.2.54.—94.2.54. Boundary Street: 94.2.54.—94.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 95.2.54.—95.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 96.2.54.—96.2.54. Waterco. 97.2.54.—97.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 98.2.54.—98.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 99.2.54.—99.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 100.2.54.—100.2.54. Boundary Street: 100.2.54.—100.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 101.2.54.—101.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 102.2.54.—102.2.54. Waterco. 103.2.54.—103.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 104.2.54.—104.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 105.2.54.—105.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 106.2.54.—106.2.54. Boundary Street: 106.2.54.—106.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 107.2.54.—107.2.54. Street: Sleepers: Shelter Society Duties: Shamshui-poo—11.2.54. Shamshui-poo Amb. Div. 108.2.54.—108.2.54. Waterco. 109.2.54.—109.2.54. Teatimatai Amb. Div. 110.2.54.—110.2.54. Club Ground: K.C.O.B. Amb. Div. 111.2.54.—111.2.54. Football Duties: Kowloon—13.2.54. 112.2.54.—112.2.54. Boundary Street: 112.2.54.—112.2.54. S.C.A.A. Amb. Div. 11



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 "SZECHUEN" ... Tunjung, Manl ... 13/14th Feb.

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 "PELEUS" ... Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow ... 5th Mar. ... 6th Mar.
 "AUTOMEDON" ... Liverpool & Glasgow ... 13th Mar. ... 14th Mar.
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 "PELEUS" ... Liverpool & Rotterdam ... Sails 14th Feb. ... Arrives 23rd Feb.
 "AUTOMEDON" ... do ... Sailed 23rd Feb. ... Sails 27th Feb.
 "ATREUS" ... do ... 10th Mar.
 "BI LEROPHON" ... do ... 15th Mar.
 "PATROCLUS" ... do ... 25th Mar.
 "ALCINOUS" ... 10th Feb. ... 2nd Apr.
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 "DONA NATI" ... 25th Feb. ... 3rd Mar.
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CHINA MAIL

New Italian Cabinet Announced

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m.v. "AGAPENOR"

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. on February 12 and 13, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, February 10, 1954.

NOTICE

LADIES' RECREATION CLUB

Members of the Ladies Recreation Club are reminded that reservations for the Annual Dance at the Yacht Club on Friday, 19th February 1954, should be sent to the secretary immediately.

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The fast m.v. "MEKONG"

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By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

LET ME GO, GRANT. I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE.

NO MAN HAS EVER TRAVELED TO THE IONOSPHERE IN A ROCKET, MANDRAKE.

I'D HOPED YOU'D VOLUNTEER, BUT YOUR CHANCES OF RETURNING ALIVE ARE SLIM.

WHEN DO I GO?

NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. LET'S GET STARTED.

By Milk

FERNAND

Hot Stuff

By Milk

NANCY

Such Affection!

WHAT'S THE RUSH?

I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

GOODBYE, OL' PAL

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THE WEATHER FORECAST SAID VERY WARM THIS AFTERNOON

SO LONG

By Ernie Bushmiller

JOHNNY HAZARD

ONE TENTH. B-BUT...THAT ISN'T FAIR...

THE PEOPLE IN FOR A PITTANCE THEREFORE I AM PREPARED TO OFFER...

ONE TENTH. OF ITS VALUE

THEN KEEP IT, YOURSELF.

WHO CAN SMUGGLE PEARL OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS...AND IN SO DOING, SAVE YOU FROM THE POLICE!

I AM THE ONLY MAN IN FRANCE WHO CAN SMUGGLE PEARL OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS...AND IN SO DOING, SAVE YOU FROM THE POLICE!

By Frank Robbins

...this situation calls for a

Sailor

Magical

Is The Missing Soviet Diplomat Hidden On Okinawa?

Okinawa, Feb. 10. Missing Soviet diplomat Yuri Rastvorov probably was on Okinawa and may still be here, but his whereabouts is one of the best-kept secrets on this United States island stronghold.

Rastvorov, Second Secretary of the outlawed Soviet Mission in Japan, disappeared on January 24. The chief of the Soviet Mission charged that he had been kidnapped by United States intelligence agents.

Highly placed United States sources said he had surrendered to United States officials and given details of a Russian spy ring operating in the Far East.

The Russian was reported to have been brought to Okinawa for questioning. But United States officials like those in Tokyo and Washington, claimed all knowledge of Rastvorov's whereabouts.

"We don't have him," said Major-General David A. D. Ogden, Commander of the Ryukyu Command.

"I don't know where he is," said Thomas Murfin, American Consul here.

The Polish staff member on the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Korea who sought asylum from the United States also turned up on Okinawa.

And it was pointed out that the missing diplomat could be on the island in the hands of the agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence without Gen. Ogden or Mr. Murfin knowing it.

It was three weeks before most persons on the island knew the Polo was here. They found out the day he left—United Press.

Outstanding Points

London, Feb. 10. The Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, told the House of Commons today the main questions outstanding regarding the Korean peace talks were voting procedure, Moscow's status and the duties of the neutral nations.—France-Press.

P&O B.I.E.A. COMPANIES

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 "CANTON" 4th February 8th March
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 "CORFU" 4th March 10th May

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Homewards Leaves Hongkong 15th February 18th March
 "CANTON" 12th March 15th April
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"FULTALA" due 11th Feb. from Japan sails 12th Feb. for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Chittagong & Calcutta

"SANTEHA" due 22nd Feb. from Japan sails 24th Feb. for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

"SIRDHANA" due 27th Feb. from Calcutta, Rangoon & Straits sails 29th Feb. for Japan

P. & O./B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OLINDA" In Port 1st Feb. from Japan sails 11th Feb. for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi direct, Piraeus, Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay

"OZARDA" due 13th Feb. sails 14th Feb. for Yokohama & Kobe

"OBRA" due 10th Feb. sails 20th Feb. for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay & Karachi direct, Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay

"ORMARA" due 21st Feb. from Karachi, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo & Straits sails 23rd Feb. for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"EASTERN" due 20th Feb. from Australia sails 22th Feb. for Japan

"NELLORE" due 20th Mar. from Australia sails 22nd Mar. for Japan

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to:

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 Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

Kashmir Can Still Decide Its Own Fate

Washington, Feb. 10. Amritsar officials said today they believed the inhabitants of the princely state of Kashmir still had the right to determine their own fate in a plebiscite under neutral supervision, despite the action of the Kashmir Assembly in ratifying accession to India.

They said they had no indication from New Delhi the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, intended to go back on his agreement of last August with Pakistan that the eventual fate of the State would be determined by the full and free vote of the inhabitants in a plebiscite supervised by a neutral nation.

However, a clear and unequivocal statement by Mr. Nehru reaffirming his plebiscite agreement, would help quiet Pakistani concern on this point, they believed.

There appeared to be little agreement here with the assertion by the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Ali, that the action of the Kashmir Assembly was an "insult" to the United States. Officials said that would be true only if Mr. Nehru went back on the plebiscite promise.

REGULARISE MATTERS

The impression in official circles here was that the Kashmir accession actually did little more than regularise matters so that normal commerce could be carried on pending a plebiscite.

As such, it

Baccha Takes A Quiet Siesta



This is Baccha, the Indian tiger, at the London Zoo. There is no warm hearth, in fact his cage is pretty chilly. But when a tiger has had a big meal he gets sleepy in any weather.—Reuterphoto.

A New Job For La Petite Brigitte, The Parachuting War Reporter

Hanoi, Feb. 10.

"Madame Parachute," a slim French girl reporter who has parachuted down on battlefields all over Indo-China in the past two years, is leaving the war here this spring to fight another battle—in the United States.

She wants to collect enough ammunition there to combat what she calls "uninformed" criticism in France of Americans—caused, she says, by French pride and obstinacy.

"Madame Parachute" is not a Madame at all. She is 20-year-old Mademoiselle Brigitte Friang who carries with her, even on the battlefield, the chic of a fashionable Paris couturier.

She was dubbed "Madame Parachute" by the tough regular paratroopers here, many of whom have almost stopped being amazed at seeing this 5-foot 2½-inch girl float down into action with them.

But not all of them. When she dropped into the mountain bowl of Dien Bien Phu on the northern borders of Laos in November 1953, her parachute caught in a tree, and she was left swaying in mid-air 20 feet from the ground.

A French paratrooper, who spotted her, was so surprised that he ran away as though he had seen a ghost, yelling: "A French girl! There's a French girl up that tree!"

Nor did he return until he had found two comrades to accompany him.

In Indo-China, Brigitte Friang has come into the public eye because of her spectacular feats as a reporter-parachutist for official French war publications. But her history as a war heroine dates back 12 years, when, as a girl of 18, she began her own war against the Germans occupying her country.

Dull Lectures

For her bravery then she won the Croix de Guerre (French Military Cross) and became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. She has won a second Croix de Guerre in Indo-China.

Born with a zest for adventure, she hopes to return to Indo-China if the war here lasts that long. But in 1954, she wants to fulfil an old ambition—to get to know the United States.

Once she has learnt enough about the Americans, "Madame Parachute" intends to launch an attack on a section of the French population, which, she says, criticizes the United States and American policy without knowing anything about either of them.

In 1942, Brigitte was a medical student in Paris. But she found lectures on chemistry and work at the dissection table too tame. She wanted to be dissecting not corpses but the German Nazis who occupied her country.

Before the year was out, she became a full-time member of the underground resistance. She worked as secretary to a cell leader, whose job was to "soften up" the Northwest of France—Normandy, Brittany, Anjou and Touraine—for the Allied invasion. It was here that the Allies were later to form their Arromanches bridgehead and the American armored columns were to curve their giant corridor round Hitler's German armies.

Resistance Worker

Still posing as a medical student, she leapt out of an upstairs window into the street. The Americans shipped her back to France in a cattle truck.

After working for five years with General de Gaulle's Holly of the French People, "Madame Parachute" lived a political squabbles and asked to go to Indo-China. "I thought the French there were prepared to

fight for something worthwhile," she explained. "In France, they were only willing to fight for their beefsteaks."

Brigitte had done a preliminary course of controlled parachute jumps from towers at a training school in Algeria in 1946.

When she reached Indo-China, she asked permission "as a trained parachutist" to go on operations. In May 1952, she made her first real parachute jump on a military operation on the borders of Cochinchina and Annam. After that, the military authorities decided she ought to be trained as a parachutist before she leapt from any more aircraft.

The following year, Brigitte Friang jumped with most major parachute operations in Indo-China.

Her most thrilling jump, she says, was her last in 1953, when she plummetted down on Muong Khoua, a Laotian village stronghold on the "Opium Road" to China. Bad luck left her hanging helpless in a tree over a 100-foot precipice. When a group of Laotian villagers found her half an hour later, they told her she was also in the middle of a dangerous minefield.

Why does she jump? "Because jumping gives you an extraordinary feeling. It is the only time I feel completely free. It makes me feel I have superhuman faculties. The first time I jumped I shouted for sheer joy," she said. —China Mail Special.

MP's Question On Korean War Criminals

London, Feb. 10.

A Conservative, Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery Hyde, asked in the House of Commons today how many Korean nationals who were sentenced by British and Allied tribunals as Japanese war criminals were still imprisoned in Japan.

He also asked to what extend their cases are subject to period review by the Allied military authorities.

Mr A. D. Dodds-Parker, Joint Foreign Under-Secretary, replied: "No Korean nationals were sentenced by British military tribunals as war criminals. The British Government has no information whether Korean nationals were sentenced by the military tribunals of other powers."

There were many difficulties he said, and added: "One of these is foreign exchange. He added that people here were not inclined to welcome the return of Japanese traders."

"Whether or not they are able to form joint companies here to start business remains to be seen," Mr. Tan said.

Indonesia Must Import More Rice

Washington, Feb. 10. Current estimates place the Indonesian 1954 rice acreage at about 17.3 million acres, or 4 per cent above that of last year, according to the bulletin "Foreign Crops and Markets," published by the US Department of Agriculture.

Harvesting is due to begin next May. If the resulting yields are equal to those of 1953, production will be slightly over 7 million metric tons, rice equivalent, the bulletin says. While it appears quite likely that some increase in production will occur over that of 1953, this estimate must be considered tentative pending more definite information on acreage and weather conditions between now and harvesting.

In the 1953 calendar year production amounted to 6,793,730 metric tons (rice equivalent) which was nearly 8 per cent over that of 1952. Should the 1954 estimate prove correct, it will be the third consecutive year that Indonesian production has exceeded the 1937 crop, which established a pre-war record of 6,229,720 metric tons. When the 1937 crop was produced, however, the population was about 63 million as compared with 78 million in 1953.

Imports of rice during the January-September 1953 period were 308,000 metric tons, of which approximately 51,000 came from the United States. It is estimated that the total for the year will be between 360,000 and 400,000 metric tons.

POPULATION INCREASING

In 1951 the total imports were 457,771 tons, with 58,000 from the United States, and in 1952 they were 759,000 tons, with 40,000 from the United States.

During 1952 the exceptionally heavy rice imports, together with a crop of 8.4 million tons, resulted in a large carry-over at the end of the year. In addition, there was still undelivered a considerable tonnage remaining from 1952 purchases.

Imports in 1953 are expected to be 300,000 tons, and possibly more will be required in 1954 to maintain consumption at last year's rate, despite prospects for a larger crop, the bulletin continues.

Assuming that the carry-over has undergone some downward readjustment in 1953, it is likely that at least 800,000 tons, and possibly more will be required in 1954 to maintain consumption at last year's rate, despite prospects for a larger crop, the bulletin continues.

This, together with the fact that the population is increasing at the rate of 1.2 per cent a year, would seem to indicate that continued imports of rice will be necessary for some time. —China Mail Special.

"Malayans Not Inclined To Welcome Japs"

Singapore, Feb. 10.

The people of Malaya are not inclined to welcome the return of Japanese traders but if they succeed in making their way in local businessmen might have to take it as a matter of course, said the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Mr Tan Plank-kew, on Monday.

Mr Tan was commenting on a report that some leading Japanese trading firms were planning to form a South-East Asia Development Corporation in Singapore. The promoters are said to be planning to develop iron ore and other minerals in Malaya and coal in Borneo.

Mr Tan said the Japanese were technically advanced in mining work and before the war they seemed to have monopolized the field.

For some time there had been feelings to re-establish business contacts in Malaya by Japanese traders.

"Whether or not they are able to form joint companies here to start business remains to be seen," Mr. Tan said.

There were many difficulties he said, and added: "One of these is foreign exchange. He added that people here were not inclined to welcome the return of Japanese traders."

TRADE AND COMMERCE SECTION

BIG SLUMP IN BRITAIN'S DOLLAR SURPLUS From \$120m. In December To \$14m. In January

By Sydney S. Campbell, Reuter's Financial Editor

London, Feb. 10. The sterling area's gold and dollar surplus with the world outside the EPU area slumped from about \$120 million in December to only \$14 million in January. The official estimate is a surplus of £4.7 million (\$13 million) in January with the EPU, but only because Holland made an advance payment of £1.6 million to Britain during the month.

Without this special receipt, Britain would have had an EPU deficit of \$22 million in January.

Ostensibly, these are serious worsenings in the trend, particularly as this should be high season for dollar and other foreign exchange earnings of sterling area commodities—wool, cocoa and the rest.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$1,231,865. Noon quotations and the morning's dealings:

RAILWAY BUYERS' SELLERS' RATES

RAILWAYS, LOANS, ETC.

1953 (1948) 91½

1954 & 1955 91½

1956 90½

1957 89½

1958 88½

1959 87½

1960 86½

1961 85½

1962 84½

1963 83½

1964 82½

1965 81½

1966 80½

1967 79½

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2008 38½

2009 37½

2010 36½

2011 35½

2012 34½

2013 33½

2014 32½

2015 31½

2016 30½

2017 29½

2018 28½

2019 27½

2020 26½

2021 25½

2022 24½

2023 23½

2024 22½

2025 21½



JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK

A London Evening

THE young Dutch businessman came over on the Hook of Holland-Harwich service, and his first sight of London was Liverpool Street station in all its morning glory.

The gossamer quality of the gaiety there is enough to persuade most visitors that London is full of romance and improvidence, and the young businessman, whose name was Freddy, caught the mood at once.

He dropped his bag at his hotel, and somehow got through the working day. Then the enchanting evening lay ahead, and the whole town seemed his.

As so often happens in romances, the young man presently met a girl.

DOUBLE MAGIC

AND as usually happens abroad, she seemed possessed of twice the magic of the girls in Dordrecht or Utrecht or Bergen-op-Zoom, because he had so little of her language, and she had not a word of his.

At a point in the evening he said, with a thumb in the right pocket of his pocket dictionary, "We will have dinner, yes?"

"Suits me," the girl said.

"Dinner, eh?" Freddy repeated. To make his meaning clear, he went through the motions of eating.

"Sure," said the girl, "let's go."

"But first," Freddy said, "I must some money have from my bag which in my hotel is."

VANISHING TRICK

"WHATEVER you say," said the girl, who was beginning to be bored with Freddy, and thought she saw a way of dodging the evening ahead.

They reached Freddy's hotel. "You just wait here," he said to the girl, "I get the money." He beamed, and bounded up the steps into the hotel lobby, like a stag. When he came back, the girl had gone.

He went into the street, and looked up and down. At first, there was no sign of her. Then he thought he saw her on the other side of the road. He raced across. "Now, now, now," he said, in mock reprimand, "you think you run away, eh?" It was the wrong girl. This one took one look at Freddy, and bolted.

SECOND ATTEMPT

Puzzled, the young man returned across the roadway, looking about him. "Ah," he said to himself, "there she is." He swept up to another total stranger, and this young woman was so put about by Freddy's advance upon her, that she ran away and attached herself to an elderly lady who was passing, and begged to be escorted out of Freddy's range.

A policeman had been watching Freddy. Now he came up. "I'm arresting you," he said, "for using insulting behaviour whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned." Freddy reached for his pocket dictionary.

At Bow Street, next morning, Freddy, dark-eyed as if through lack of sleep, but not unhandsome, pleaded not guilty to the charge, and the story was told to Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate.

BE CAREFUL . . .

"WERE these respectable women he spoke to?" Sir Laurence asked the officer in charge of the case.

"Oh, quite respectable, sir." "It was just the wrong ladies, so they was frightened," said Freddy.

"You've got to be careful, in this country," Sir Laurence said to him. "You'd better have a better system of recognition, if you're going to meet young ladies. This time I shall," discharge you conditionally."

Freddy nodded, as though the words meant nothing much to him until he could consult his dictionary. He bowed deeply, and went sadly away into the deceptive gaiety of Covent Garden.

What's His Line? Solution
INVENTOR
London Express Service.

Printed and published by
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Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

Trade Agreement Debate

(Continued from Page 1)

the Lancashire textile industry was having great difficulties.

Mr Maudling said: "We have no power or right to say they must not spend their own money on Japanese but Lancashire goods."

He added: "I don't think anyone would dispute that nothing could have a worse effect on our relations with the Commonwealth than to insist on a proposition of that kind."

Mr Maudling said it had never been the practice of any government to consult a whole industry before coming to a decision. The Labour Government in 1951 did not do so when it imposed the colonial quota in 1951. Nor did it seek assistance against unfair trading practices when it signed the 1951 Japanese agreement.

But Mr Maudling gave an assurance that if instances of unfair trading practices were brought to the Government's notice it would take action.

Mr Maudling said it was true that Lancashire would have to take a large part of the burden.

But that was because it was textiles, particularly cotton textiles, that the colonies wanted to buy.

The main increase in the colonial licences would be in the non-entrepreneur colonies. In the other colonies which bought Japanese goods for consumption, the increase in licensed imports would be £7,500,000—compared with last year—from £17,500,000 to £25,000,000.

The actual amount sold in the colonies would depend upon the degree to which Lancashire was competitive and to which Japanese exports displaced goods from other countries.

Even if the Japanese sold £25,000,000 in the colonies, that would be substantially less than the rate at which the colonies were buying immediately after the 1951 agreement.

A situation had now been reached where there were no longer any balance of payments reasons for limiting imports into the colonies of goods they needed from Japan.

Mr Maudling said in practice this should not mean a substantial displacement of Lancashire goods in the colonies.

NO SERIOUS INJURY

Without a renewal of the sterling payments agreement there might well be a bilateral Japan-Australia payments agreement which might have forced more Japanese goods into Australia and Lancashire's imports.

Mr Maudling said there was "no shadow of doubt" the agreement was in Britain's interests. It would do no serious injury to any British industry.

Mr Ralph Asheton, a Conservative from Lancashire, who moved the Conservative motion, said: Mr Maudling's speech had disclosed some additional facts of which he and his friends were not previously aware. He thought they would tend to allay Lancashire's fears.

Mr I. M. Thorobin, a Conservative, who recalled that for several years he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese, declared that the case for the agreement was overwhelming.

If one result was to make Japan solvent and give Australia a bigger wool cheque, it might well be to the advantage of Lancashire.

Mr John Edwards, in a winding-up speech, for the Opposition, disputed Mr Maudling's contention that the agreement was a continuation of the 1951 agreement. It had entirely new features which were causing concern, for instance, in the potteries.

The new features were the token quotas for Japanese imports into Britain which had not been admitted here since before the war. It was wrong to suggest that because the quantities were small they would have no effect.

He was afraid that if Japanese exports to the colonies were to go up by £7,500,000 it would be at the expense of Lancashire.

GOOD OR BAD?

Mr Thorneycroft said he was not sure whether the Opposition was in favour of the agreement or against it. The big question was whether it was a good or bad agreement. If it was bad, then no amount of consultation with Lancashire would have turned it into a good one.

Some Labour members called out "It is a bad one."

Mr Thorneycroft: "Then the Opposition motion is against the agreement." Their interruption

was the "most effective speech in the debate."

Mr Thorneycroft said the know of Lancashire's feeling that Japanese wages were only 40 per cent of the British.

"But we are not the only people in the world who have these fears about other people," he said.

The gap between Japanese and British wages was about the same as that between British and American wages. There were trade agreements of this, including one of "You silly ass."

Mr Thorneycroft went on to speak of colonialism and fear of

unfair practices.

Those allegations had come from the mouth of the Japanese, Mr Thorneycroft said.

But there were already treaty obligations dealing with it.

It was especially provided that the Japanese should conform to internationally accepted fair practices. It was difficult to imagine anything more specific than that.

The Japanese were signalities of the Madrid Convention on trade regulations of origin and another one on industrial property rights.

SITUATION MET

The Conservative amendment exactly met the situation, they said. It asked that if the treaty obligations were broken, Lancashire should not be at the mercy of Japan.

Clearly there was a limit to what the Government could do. But he could give the assurance that it would watch the situation. If it found the treaty obligations were broken it would take "inadequate steps." No doubt the colonial Governments could consider taking comparable action.

The colonies were "masters of their own fate" in these matters. They and not the British Government decided what were the appropriate quotas.

No one would suggest that if Japan was going to sell textiles to China she should not do it through Hongkong.

That was a perfectly legitimate and proper trade.

Of the rest £23,000,000 went to the non-entrepreneur colonies—an increase of £7,500,000 on goods—possibly including 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 yards of cloth. Lancashire would not lose all that, he said. Some of the loss would be sustained by India and other countries.

If the £3,000,000 worth of grey Japanese cloth were not taken here it would be taken by other countries and woven there.

"In my opinion the case for the agreement is overwhelming," he concluded.—Reuters.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"No, I know I don't need an expensive necklace, but we ought to look ahead—think of all the money we could borrow on it if we ever were hard up!"

Court Dismisses Appeal Against Death Sentence

An appeal against sentence of death for the murder of a woman Wu Kwai-lan on July 10, 1953, was brought by Ho Chung-foon, 24, rubber factory worker, before the Full Court of Appeal, comprising the two Puisne Judges, Mr Justice C. W. Reece and Mr Justice J. R. Gregg this morning.

The appeal was dismissed.

Mr T. Shurlock told the Court that he was assigned to appear for the appellant, on the instructions of Mr Alfred Hon.

Counsel said that appellant was tried before Mr Justice Scholes and a jury on a charge of murder and was found guilty.

Mr Shurlock said he had studied the record with care and had consulted some of his colleagues and he was unable to find any ground on which to argue the appeal before the Court.

Counsel referred the Court to a case in the Criminal Appeal Reports of 1948 (the case of Rex v. Frederick Reynolds) in which the Lord Chief Justice said that the Court always read the transcript of the case and when it was perfectly clear there was no ground for appeal there was no duty on Counsel other than to tell the Court that he represented the appellant.

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No Contact With Advancing Rebels Yet Established

Vientiane, Laos, Feb. 10.

French Union forces, including both French and Laotian units, returned to the threatened royal capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, tonight to report that they had no news of the whereabouts of the Vietminh's 308th shock division advancing on the city.

Despite numerous attempts to contact the rebel division, all patrols returned empty-handed and French military circles expressed the opinion that the Vietminh advance had slowed down considerably.

The Laotian Crown Prince Sivang Vatthana arrived here today from Luang Prabang to attend the opening session of the Laos National Assembly.

He stated that the morale of the Laotian forces and of the

population of Luang Prabang was excellent. He said he believed the situation was not alarming.

Tonight the main body of the rebels was still believed to be 30 to 40 miles away from the royal capital, on both banks of the Nampan River, waiting for orders to march on the city.

French warplanes carried out day-long bombing and strafing attacks on Vietminh troop concentrations and barracks throughout the whole of the battle area.

Vietminh spearheads, believed to be about 1,000-strong, were at the approaches to the town, but a general assault was not expected until the main Vietminh forces had reached striking distance of the capital.—France-Presse.

DECISION CRITICISED

Washington, Feb. 10.

Two American Senators today added their voices to that of Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, criticizing the United States government's decision to send American aviators to Indo-China.

The appellants were found guilty of having conspired together to defraud creditors of the second appellant by presenting a false petition for bankruptcy in the name of the first appellant.

He stressed that Admiral Arthur Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had only announced this move on Friday to the Senate Armed Services Committee of which he is a member.

He said that France could now be expected to ask first for aircraft pilots and later for ground forces and that he would oppose any such request.

Senator Walter George of Georgia said that should the United States send fighting forces to Indo-China, Communist China could logically expect to follow suit, and